30th January 1929]

A.—(*a*) Yes, a mahazar was received from certain rate-payers of Tiruvannamalai objecting to the grant of a loan by Government for a water-supply scheme and to the levy of water-tax.

(*b*) Rs. 1,72,500. The municipal council proposes to repay this loan in 20 equal annual instalments of Rs. 14,137 each.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The municipal council has to find a sum of Rs. 6,500 required to provide for the annual maintenance charges. A sum of Rupees 5,000 available from the savings on account of the provincialization of the municipal hospital has also to be utilized towards the cost of the scheme.

(*e*) The council has agreed to levy the water and drainage tax at 5¾ per cent per annum.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

(*g*) The council is levying property tax at the rate of 7½ per cent for general purposes.

(*h*) The Government do not consider it necessary to make any enquiry in the matter.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. Minister for Public Health whether Tiruvannamalai is not one of the pilgrim centres, and whether that is not a special case for favourable consideration ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There are a large number of pilgrim centres and if all such centres are to be given special consideration it would be difficult."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask whether the incidence of taxation proposed is not very big for a small place like Tiruvannamalai ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The municipal council has decided upon fixing that and I am not sure whether I will be entitled to go into the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask with regard to the answer to clause (*a*), what action has been taken on the mahazars ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" We thought it was not necessary to take any action on the mahazars."

Water-supply scheme for Rajahmundry.

*1194 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the water and drainage tax has been levied by the Municipal Council, Rajahmundry ;

(*b*) what the total amount now available for use under the above head is ;

(*c*) when the work will actually commence ;

(*d*) whether provision will be made in the next year's budget for the grant to be made to the municipal council for the above purpose ;

(*e*) whether the plans and estimates have been completed ;

(*f*) if not, for how long they have been under preparation ; and

(*g*) the reasons for such delay ?

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A.—(*a*) The council first levied the tax for three years from 1915–16 to 1917–18. It discontinued the levy of tax afterwards but has reimposed it from 1st April 1926.

(*b*) On 1st April 1928 the council had Rs. 1,46,312-8-6 under investments and Rs. 51,751-14-9 in cash. The council expects also to realize Rs. 55,000 from water-tax and Rs. 5,500 from interest on investments in the current year.

(*c*) In 1929–30.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

(*g*) The question does not arise.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know what is the amount that would be provided for in the next year ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Two lakhs of grant and half-a-lakh for loan."

Compensation for failure of crops to ryots under the Red Hills Lake.

* 1195 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the hon. the Minister for Public Health attended a conference of the ryots in the neighbourhood of the Red Hills lake and received an address ;

(*b*) whether he (the hon. the Minister) promised the assembled ryots compensation for failure of crops due to insufficient supply of water ;

(*c*) whether he made this promise as a representative of the Government ; and

(*d*) if so, when the Government decided to give compensation ?

A.—(*a*) There was no conference ; an address was presented by the Red Hills Ryots' Association.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health whether after the receipt of the address from Red Hills Ryots' Association he said in reply that he sympathised with the sufferings of those ryots and also promised compensation either from the Corporation or from the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not exactly understood what I said. I did sympathise with them and said that if for three crops they have suffered on account of insufficient supply of water and this year also water is not given to them, they would be entitled to compensation and that I would do what I can in the matter."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Was it done with the consent of the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Absolutely, there was no necessity to consult. In my own capacity I said they would be entitled to compensation."